श्री राम नरेश यादव : जिस तरह से सप्लाई बढ़ती चली जा रही है वैसे डिमांड भी बढ़ती चली जा रही है और जब डिमांड बढ़ती चली जा रही है तो... (व्यवधान)

श्री सभापति : अब प्रश्न करो।

श्री राम नरेश यादव : मैं वही करना चाहता हूं। इसलिए जो योजनायें बनती हैं उनके योजनाओं के माध्यम से किसी समस्या के समाधान की दिशा में प्रयास भी सरकार करती है, कदम भी उठाती है, इस संदर्भ में माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूं कि दिल्ली में जो दूध की आवश्यकता है, डिमांड है उस बात को ध्यान में रखते हुए इस दूध उत्पादन के संबंध में आठवीं पंचवर्षीय योजना में क्या-क्या योजनायें आप दे रहे हैं ताकि इस तरह की कठिनाईयां यहां के नागरिकों के सामने न आ सकें, यह मैं जानना चाहूंगा।

SHRI K. C. LENKA: Sir the Delhi Milk Scheme is procuring milk from Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Punjab, Gujarat and from distant places and that milk is being brought to Delhi, covering such long transport and all these things. Actually we have not taken any steps to develop the periphery areas of Delhi where we can have cooperative societies to encourage keeping cows for producing milk. That step has not been taken.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are planning to take those steps?

SHRI K. C. LENKA: Yes. In order to supply sufficient milk to the Milk Scheme we are going to encourage periphery areas where milk can be produced more and it can meet the demand of the city.

श्री बलराम जाखड़ : माननीय सभापति जी, मैं थोड़ा सा इसमें ऐड कर दूं कि जो आज की हमारी सहकारिता है और जो सोसाइटी हमें दूध सप्लाई करती हैं मैं उनसे आश्वस्त नहीं। उनका जो मेकअप है उसको पूर्णतया वास्तव में सहकारी बनाने की मेरी इच्छा है और उसके लिए आवश्यकता है कि ग्राम किसान को जो गांव में रहने वाला है उसको जोड़ा जाये और उसके पास पशु धन ज्यादा हो जिससे हम पूरा लाभ उठा सकें, जैसे कि गुजरात में है वही पैटर्न मैं यहां बनाना चाहता हूं और उसके लिए आठवीं पंचवर्षीय योजना में पूर्णरूपेण चेष्टा की जायेगी।

*82. [*The questioner (Shri Murlidhar Chandrakant Bhandare) was absent. For answer,* vide *col.* 31-32 infra.]

देश में स्क्रैप की कमी

*83. **सरदार जगजीत सिंह अरोड़ा :†**
श्री रणजीत सिंह :

क्या इस्पात मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि मिश्र धातु (ऐलॉय) इस्पात उद्योग को पर्याप्त मात्रा में स्क्रैप उपलब्ध न होने के कारण भारी दिक्कत का सामना करना पड़ रहा है ;

(ख) क्या यह भी सच है कि देश में उपलब्ध स्क्रैप यहां स्थापित मिनी इस्पात संयंत्रों की मांग को पूरा करने के लिए पर्याप्त नहीं है;

(ग) यदि हां, तो गत तीन वर्षों के दौरान स्क्रैप का वर्षवार कितनी-कितनी मात्रा में आयात किया गया ;

(घ) क्या यह सच है कि इस स्क्रैप के आयात की जिम्मेदारी मैटल स्क्रैप ट्रेडिंग कारपोरेशन की है; और

(ङ) यदि हां, तो उसके द्वारा चालू वित्तीय वर्ष के दौरान अब तक कुल कितनी मात्रा में स्क्रैप का आयात किया गया और यह आयातित मात्रा देश की कुल मांग में कितने प्रतिशत की पूर्ति करने के समर्थ है ?

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Sardar Jagjit Singh Aurora.

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) It is a fact that the electric furnace industry which includes the alloy steel industry is experiencing shortage of scrap.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) As the canalising agency, Metal Scrap Trade Corporation (MSI) has imported the following quantities of steel melting scrap during the last three years:

1988-89	20.6 lakh tonnes
1989-90	17.15 lakh tonnes
1990-91	14.34 lakh tonnes

Import of steel melting scrap against REP licences was allowed in 1989-90. It is estimated that about 1 million tonnes of steel melting scrap was imported annually during the last two years through REP/ additional licences and direct import licences from Rupee Payment Areas.

(d) and (e) MSTC is the canalising agency for import of steel melting scrap. It has imported 55,000 tonnes in the current financial year. This constitutes about 3 per cent of quantity required the be imported through MSTC during the year 1991-92 to meet the total demand in the country. The import through MSTC has been low due to the restrictions imposed as a result of the balance of payments problem. Besides, scrap is also directly imported by actual users against REP/ additional licences and Direct Import Licences from rupee payment areas.

SARDAR JAGJIT SINGH AURORA: In the statement, which is given to me, I find that the things have been left very much in the air. It has been mentioned that the official agency i.e. MSTC has only imported 55,000 tonnes so far this year which constitutes 3 per cent of the quantity required to be imported through MSTC. It has not been mentioned why they have imported only 3 per cent and why no more. I am sure the Ministry must be aware of the fact that a large number of mini steel plants are incapable of functioning because of the shortage of scrap. So may I please be told, why there has been such shortage by MSTC and why they have not imported more scrap?

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Sir, the hon. Member is right that the import was very minimal in relation to the requirement. Import is made on the basis of allocation of foreign exchange by the Finance Ministry. In the original budget our allocation was Rs. 450 crores and because of the resource crunch, for the time being, it has been brought down to approximately Rs. 120 crores. As a result we are able to import only 2.50 lakh tonnes which is 12 per cent of the requirement of mini steel industry. We have tried with the Finance Ministry to raise this allocation. We have been given an assurance that this thing will be reviewed after three months when the foreign exchange position is improved. Till then we are not in a position to import because without foreign exchange we cannot import. Although, there was a commitment on the part of the rupee trade area i.e. USSR and Czechoslovakia they have also failed to supply whatever they committed. This is the main reason and we are aware that there is a shortage. But we are at it and we shall try to improve it.

SARDAR JAGJIT SINGH AURORA: This means that you are unable to help mini steel plants this year altogether. You are leaving the matter at that without seeing what repercussions it is going to have in the country with the shortage that will occur and the losses that the mini steel plants would be suffering. If there is no plan whatsoever for special measures to be taken with the cooperation of RBI so that more scrap is imported this year, it is going to cause a large amount of financial loss and shortage in this country.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Sir, the difficulty is quite appreciated. But it is not a fact that it is a total chaos. The demand is 70 lakh tonnes but within the country the availability is 30 lakh tonnes. Apart from that the sponge iron which is also another source of raw material for mini steel plants is also available upto ten

lakh tonnes. In order to replace the requirement of scrap which is a perpetual difficulty for the min. steel plants, we are encouraging the sponge iron industry to cope in large scale. Already, there are about 10 such organisations working and by 1994-95 things will improve to a great extent. Meanwhile, I am sure the Reserve Bank will allow us some foreign exchange. I am completely one with the opinion of the hon. Member that at present this mini steel plant is suffering. But it is my duty to see that the allocation is increased and I am trying my level best and I hope that I will succeed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are you planning to put up any sponge iron plant?

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Sir, already there are sponge iron plants.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, you or the Government.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Sir, the policy of the Government now is to encourage private sector.

SARDAR JAGJIT SINGH AURORA: That will be by 1993-94.

SHRI RANJIT SINGH: Sir, in part (c) of the reply, the Minister has said that in 1988-89, the Metal Scrap Trade Corporation has imported 20.6 lakh tonnes of steel melting scrap; in 1989-90, it is 17.15 lakh tonnes; in 1990-91, it is 14.34 lakh tonnes. Every year, the import is declining My submission is, STC and the MSTC are doing the same job; but MSTC was meant for this purpose only. Even in Mandi Govindgarh, which is the best mandi for steel furnace, the mini steel plants are not able to individually import and export and that is why, this Corporation was formed. But the details that the Minister has given.....

MR. CHAIRMAN: You put your question.

SHRI RANJIT SINGH:....show that the industry is going to close down. I want to know whether Government has any plans to see that this industry survives.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: The problem is that originally, the customs duty was 25 per cent and during December 1990 it has been increased to 45 per cent and then again there was devaluation. Though in the present Budget, 10 per cent reduction has been proposed, but this becomes insignificant in view of the devaluation itself which has resulted in increase of 20 per cent and because of this customs duty factor and the non-availability of foreign exchange, we have not been able to.....

MR. CHAIRMAN: He wants to know how you are going to meet this difficulty.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Government has allowed mini-steel plants to import against REP licences, and that is one avenue they can avail of and be able to overcome this difficulty.

श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर : श्रीमान, अभी मंत्री महोदय ने जवाब में कहा है कि 10 परसेंट रिडक्शन करेंगे । मैं उनको स्मरण दिलाऊं कि दिसंबर 1990 में 20 परसेंट ड्यूटी बढ़ाई गई थी । तो एक्सपोर्ट ड्यूटी के साथ दिसम्बर 1990 से जो आज 10 परसेंट रिडक्शन है, उसको मिलाकर भी कम से कम 150 रुपए प्रति टन कीमत दिसम्बर 1990 से ज्यादा पड़ती है।...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Will you ask the Finance Minister?

श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर : तो क्या स्टील मिनिस्ट्री ने फाइनैंस मिनिस्ट्री से आग्रह किया है कि जितनी भी इंपोर्ट ड्यूटी है उसको खत्म कर दिया जाए । अगर आप ऐसा करेंगे तो सुविधा होगी वरना आप रैंप के अंदर लीजिए या वैसे लीजिए कोई अंतर नहीं पड़ता । क्या इस पर सरकार विचार कर रही है ?

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: I fully appreciate the feelings of the hon. Member. Only two days before, I had met the Finance Minister and we suggested it to be reduced to zero-point because this has been the demand of the industry, and as the Steel Minister, it is my duty to support the industry.

MR. CHAIRMAN: So, you are doing what he wants?

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Yes, we are doing it.

SHRI JAGESH DESAI: At present, the policy of the Government is to give REP licences for the goods which are imported, and alloy steel more or less is not imported. So they will not get any REP licences, and the premium on REP licences at present is 30 to 40 per cent. In view of that, if they buy the licence, the price of alloy scrap will be 30 to 40 per cent more and the price of alloy steel will go up. How is the Government going to meet this challenge? Otherwise, the whole industry will go to dogs. There should be some change in policy. What I see is, only 55,000 tonnes had been imported in....

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is your question? Is it whether they will change their policy?

SHRI JAGESH DESAI: Only one lakh tonnes they are going to import. How are they going to meet this challenge?

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: It is a fact that we do give REP licence for alloy steel. And it is not a fact that they are not in a position to reap the profits from REP licence because in the past, one million tonne was brought into the country through REP. But the hon. Member is very much correct that the cost will go up by 35 to 40 per cent, and even then, the industry will have to bear it; it will escalate the price. That is why we are asking that zero-based tax should be included, and I hope I get the blessings of the full House.

SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY: I want to know what is the total demand in the country and what is the internal availability. Secondly, I want to know: in view of the shortage of scrap prevailing in the country, will the import restriction, that has been imposed, be lifted or not? Thirdly, I want to know what is the total amount of imports that the private importers are importing.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: For 1991-92, the demand is 70 lakh tonnes. The scrap available in the country is 30 lakh tonnes and the sponge iron availability is 10 lakh tonnes. We have been able to import only 55,000 tonnes. Another 1,17,000 is in the pipeline. As I said, with the allocation of foreign exchange, we will be able to meet the demand to the extent of 10 to 12 per cent only. I don't have the figures with me as to what has been brought by REP as it is not monitored by my Ministry; it is monitored by the Finance Ministry.

Adverse impact on Monsoon based crops

*84. SHRI SOM PAL:†
SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the likely adverse impact on monsoon-based agricultural crops due to paucity of rains in certain parts of the country; and

(b) whether Government have worked out necessary measures in all directions i.e. mitigating hardships to agriculturists, agricultural labourers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Till recently, parts of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Haryana and Rajasthan and experienced deficit rainfall resulting in poor sowings|transplantation of crops; crops already sown also experienced moisture stress on account of long dry spells.

(b) Yes, Sir. The situation is being closely monitored by the Centre and, apart from arranging additional supplies of diesel and other inputs, the State Governments have been advised and helped to draw and implement crop contingency plans and other relief measures to be funded out of the Calamity Relief Fund.

श्री सोम पाल : सभापति महोदय, माननीय कृषि मंत्री जी से जो सवाल मैं पूछना चाहता हूं, वैसे तो यह वर्षा से धूल चुका है।

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Som Pal.